



State of California  
The Natural Resources Agency  
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

**PROJECT TITLE** Trinity Community Protection and Landscape Resilience Project / *Kelsey Peak Timber Sale and Fuelbreak Project.*

**PROJECT LOCATION** The project would take place within the Upper Mad River Watershed on NFS lands administered by the Mad River Ranger District in Trinity County, California. The legal location includes portions of the following areas: Township 2 South, Range 8 East and Township 3 South, Range 8 East, Humboldt Meridian; and Township 28 North, Range 12 West and Township 27 North, Range 12 West, Mt. Diablo Meridian

**COUNTY** Trinity

**LEAD AGENCY** California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

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### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This assessment is based on a roadside fuelbreak treatment of approximately 250 acres associated with the Kelsey Peak Timber sale and Fuelbreak Project prepared by the Six Rivers National Forest.

"The project would create approximately 2,192 acres of fuelbreaks along strategic road corridors to reduce fuel loading and improve fire protection and human safety for both the forest and the adjacent communities of Ruth, Barry Creek and Three Forks. Fuel treatments within fuelbreaks outside of commercial treatment units may consist of thinning or pruning of small-diameter trees, mastication of shrubs, jackpot burning, and/or piling followed with pile burning. Fuelbreak corridors will generally be 300 feet in width on each side of the road. Actual widths may vary based on environmental features such as topography, vegetation distribution, and recent fire history. Corridor treatments outside of commercial units could include thinning of small trees 8 inches in diameter and smaller, cutting of understory vegetation, tree pruning, chipping and/or mastication of brush and small trees, lopping/scattering of fuel, hand or grapple piling of fuel, and jackpot and /or pile burning. These prescriptions would also apply in areas where fuels corridors overlap commercial units in addition to activity fuel treatments. In many areas, these corridors overlap with commercial thinning units. With the exception that heavy equipment is not allowed in the riparian reserves off existing roads, fuel treatments described above would occur where fuelbreaks cross the outer 80 feet of the riparian reserve. There would be no treatments within the inner riparian reserve (out to 80 and 240 feet from the channel for non-fish-bearing and fish-bearing streams, respectively)."

**\*\* This is from federal National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation for the Kelsey Peak Timber Sale and Fuelbreak Project. [https://data.ecosystem-management.org/nepaweb/nepa\\_project\\_exp.php?project=30389](https://data.ecosystem-management.org/nepaweb/nepa_project_exp.php?project=30389)**

### EXEMPTION STATUS

- ☒ Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 4 § 15304  
Minor Alterations to Land
- ☐ Statutory Exemption (state code section):
- ☐ Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)
- ☐ Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
- ☐ Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

### REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

Field review by CAL FIRE staff confirmed that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. The Department has concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland/timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, or to utilities and service systems. Documentation of the



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environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at The Watershed Research and Training Center 96 Clinic Ave. Hayfork, CA 96041.

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DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

Governor's Office of Planning & Research  
MAY 23 2018  
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Helge Eng".

Helge Eng, Deputy Director  
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

5/18/18

Date